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SRI S. P. SIVASUBRAMANYA NADAR: Is there any proposal to widen the present bridge?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN: There is no such proposal.

Encroachments on Highways

* 304 Q.—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(a) the instructions, if any, issued to the Highways Engineers in regard to the removal of encroachments on Highways in road margins;

(b) the principles laid down in this regard; and

(c) the action taken for the removal of such encroachments?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN: (a) The Chief Engineer (Highways and Rural Works) has issued the following instructions to the Superintending Engineers (Highways and Rural Works) and Divisional Engineers (Highways and Rural Works) in his Circular, dated 27th June 1960.

" It has been brought to the notice of the Chief Engineer (Highways) that there are many unauthorised encroachments on the road side margins by way of removal of earth from the berms, erection of brick kilns, storing materials for private construction, etc. Besides hindering the free flow of traffic, such encroachments ultimately lead to the deterioration of the berms, and the side drains endangering the very road structures in the long run and resulting in unnecessary expenditure to Government.

The Officers of this Department are therefore instructed to take immediate steps to evict all such unauthorised encroachments forthwith and also ensure that such practices are not resorted to in future ".

(b) The normal width for National Highway, State Highway, Major District Road and other District Road is 200′, 200′, 100′, and 80′ respectively. If the encroachments exist outside the normal width of the road concerned, such encroachments will be treated as unobjectionable and concurrence will be given to the Revenue Department to grant licence or lease for those encroachments. If the encroachments are within the normal width of the Road, they will be treated as objectionable and the Revenue Department will be requested to evict the encroachments under Sections 6 and 7 of the Land Encroachments Act.

(c) Revenue authorities will take necessary action to evict the encroachments on road margin under sections 6 and 7 of the Land Encroachment Act as and when cases of objectionable encroachments are brought to the notice of the Revenue authorities by the Highways Department.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the encroachments are there even after the order issued by the Government?

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The Hon. Sri P. KAKKAN : If the hon. Member would give specific instances, we will look into them.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : In Trichy-Karur Road at Pattavaithalai, there are several cases of encroachments on the main road and fresh encroachments are taking place everyday. I would like to know what steps the Government have taken to evict or stop such encroachments.

The Hon. Sri P. KAKKAN : I will look into the matter.

Sri A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Near Vadalur Gnana Sabai for nearly a furlong there is encroachment on the main road and that spoils the beauty of the place. Will the Hon. Minister take steps to evict such encroachments?

The Hon. Sri P. KAKKAN : I will ask the Chief Engineer to look into the matter.

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, the real difficulty is this. One set of people want removal of such encroachments and another set of people encourage such encroachments.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Which side do the Government support?

Sri A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : நெடுஞ்சாலை ரோடுகளிலும் சாதாரண ரோடுகளிலும் நெல் உலர்த்தப்படுகிறது. அது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

The Hon. Sri P. KAKKAN : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்கள் கேள்வியைத் திரும்பச் சொல்லும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

Sri A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : மெயின்ரோடிலே, நெடுஞ்சாலை ரோடுகளிலே நெல் உலர்த்தப்படுகிறது. ஒரு பக்கத்தையே அவர்கள் எடுத்துக் கொள்கிறார்கள். அதை சர்க்கார் கவனித்து நீக்க ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா?

The Hon. Sri P. KAKKAN : சிமிண்டு அல்லது தார்போட்ட ரோடுகளிலே நெல் காயவைப்பதை நான்கூட பார்த்திருக்கிறேன். அதைக் கூடாது என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறோம். மழை இல்லாத காலங்களில் அவர்கள் அப்படிப் போடுகிறார்கள்.

Express bus routes

* 305 *Q*.—Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of express bus routes sanctioned and allotted during 1960; 3-20 p.m.

(*b*) the number taken by the State Transport Department and the number allotted to private operators and the co-operative societies respectively; and